

STATE OF TEXAS  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



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LOIS W. KOLKHORST

DISTRICT 13

September 23, 2014

Senator Joe Hune, Chairman  
Senate Insurance Committee  
P.O. Box 30036  
Lansing, MI 48909

**RE: SB 993 introduced by Sen. Jim Marleau**

Dear Chairman Hune:

As a Texas State Legislator who sponsored the Health Care Compact in my state, I would like to take this opportunity to share with you the benefits of this legislation, and also encourage you to pass the Health Care Compact in Michigan.

The Affordable Care Act ("Obamacare") is already failing, even before it is fully implemented. As state legislators, we must worry not only about our states' fiscal health, but also about the health care needs of our constituents and residents of our states. The Health Care Compact is the best way to address both issues.

The Health Care Compact reverses the decades-long intrusion of the federal government into state control over public funding and regulation of the health care system. That intrusion has led to a string of failures that are hurting our constituents: an embarrassing website launch that impeded them from signing up for insurance; cancelled insurance policies, higher premiums, deductible, and copayments that impact their personal finances; limits on their ability to keep their doctor or go to their familiar provider; and the anxiety that comes from having decisions about their health care determined by bureaucrats thousands of miles from where they live. Moreover, federal control over health care has created an unsustainable fiscal situation that is a grave long-term threat to the nation. The past and future failures of federal regulation of health care in general, and Obamacare in particular, highlight the need for decisive action.

**The fundamental problem with health care is the centralization of decision-making power in Washington DC, and the Health Care Compact is the best solution to that problem.**  
(continued)



COUNTIES: AUSTIN, BURLESON, COLORADO, FAYETTE, GRIMES, LAVACA, WASHINGTON



The Health Care Compact is an interstate compact that functions, essentially, as a "no-strings-attached" block grant from the federal government. Participating states will then be free to design the health care programs that best meet their unique needs. My colleagues in Texas and I strongly believe we are more in tune with our state's budget and the health care needs of our constituents than the federal government is.

Texas passed this important legislation in 2011, and I hope Michigan will join us as we turn a Washington failure into an American success!

Should you have any questions about the Health Care Compact, I can be reached at 512-463-0600.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lois W. Kolkhorst", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Lois W. Kolkhorst